

Remarks

Applicant notes that the rejection of independent claims 1, 6 and 7 on the basis of Ranta has been withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 6 and 7 as anticipated by Ariga (US 6,625,455) under 35 U.S.C.102(e).

Ariga discloses a method for preventing calls from incoming to a portable telephone set located in an area where its use is prohibited (col.2, 1,32-34).

To achieve this, a simple base station is installed e.g. in an entrance to a building (col.3, 1.17-18). This simple base station device provides a radio wave service only in a limited area in the vicinity of a doorway of the building (col.3, 1.4 1-43).

When the holder of the portable telephone set comes near the entrance of the building, the portable telephone set receives a power OFF signal supplied from the simple base station device (col.3, 1.45-48).

Upon having received the power OFF signal, the portable telephone set transmits a telephone number of its own terminal to the simple base station device, and then switches power OFF for its radio means engaged in communications with a public radio network (col.3, 1.48-54).

After having received the telephone number, the simple base station device confirms a power OFF state of the radio means of the portable telephone set and transmits a communication suspension setting signal to the public radio network (via one of its public base station devices), so that a position management server can register information regarding the communication-suspended portable telephone set (col.3, 1.55- 63).

Thus, the radio network can recognize a communication prohibited or suspended state of the portable telephone set by referring to the registered content of the position management server when an incoming call request is made to the portable telephone set, and thereby prevent a public base station having registered a position of the portable telephone set from performing any useless incoming call processing (col.6, 1.22-28).

Actually, the ‘simple base station’ of Ariga is not so simple, since it must have means to communicate with the portable telephone set (in both directions : down for sending the power OFF signal, and up for confirming the power OFF state of the radio means of the portable telephone set) and also means to transmit information to the public radio network (in particular for sending communication suspension information regarding the portable telephone set). It thus seems abusive to qualify such simple base station as an independent beacon as claimed in claim 1 of the present application, i.e. a station only arranged for broadcasting a radio signal intended for terminals, without any relationship with a communication network.

Moreover, the system of Ariga needs the presence of a position management server registering the communication state (suspended or not) of the portable telephone sets, so that it can later prevent a public base station to perform an incoming call to a particular portable telephone set. Such architecture is rather complex, since it implies significant storage means in the position management server and high quantities of signaling exchanged between the radio network and the portable telephone set (in particular to send the telephone numbers of the terminals to the simple base station device) and also between the position management server and the radio network (to prevent the incoming call).

By contrast, claim 1 of the present application recites a method in which an independent beacon broadcasts a radio signal carrying a service restriction indication in respect of terminals situated in a protected zone. This service restriction indication is stored in a terminal picking up the radio signal. And then, when a call setup procedure is initiated between a cellular system and the terminal, the terminal transmits the service restriction indication to the cellular system. The cellular system can thus take account of the service restriction indication received to adapt its operation with regard to incoming calls.

Thus, as mentioned above, only an independent beacon (and not a complex base station) is needed with the present invention to allow the control of the availability of the service.

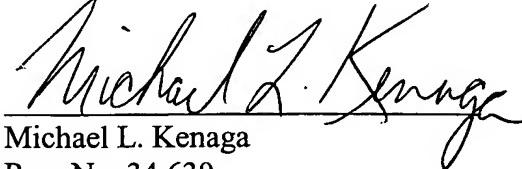
Moreover, in the present application, the terminal informs the cellular system of the service restriction by itself. This considerably reduces the complexity of the system. Indeed, the cellular system can control the service on the basis of the information transmitted by the terminal, without having to refer to a central server.

Another advantage of the present invention is that it can allow performing some types of communications for terminals situated in the protected zone, since the radio means of the terminals are not totally powered OFF as in Ariga.

Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 1 is believed new and non-obvious over Ariga. The same applies to claims 6 and 7 for the same reasons. The other claims 2-5 and 8-12 are allowable as well, in particular since they depend on claim 1, 6 or 7 directly or indirectly.

In view of the foregoing comments, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection has been overcome. The Examiner's reconsideration is requested and to find the claims allowable over the prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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